

LEGAL SERVICES
OF
NORTHWEST JERSEY

2019 ANNUAL REPORT

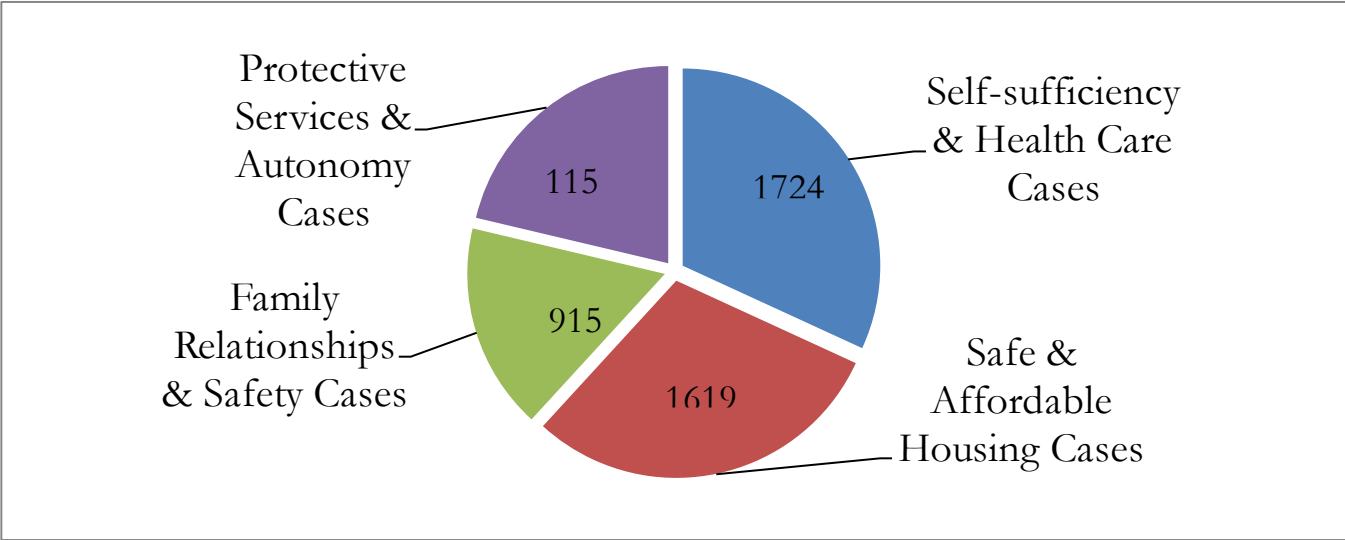


After nearly four decades of service, Diane K. Smith stepped down from the position of Executive Director with LSNWJ. Diane began with the Legal Aid Society of Mercer County in 1981, shortly after earning her law degree from Rutgers University, Newark. She became Executive Director of Somerset Sussex Legal Services in 1985 and, when the five county programs—Hunterdon, Morris, Somerset, Sussex, and Warren—merged in 2003, Diane was named Executive Director of the new program, LSNWJ.

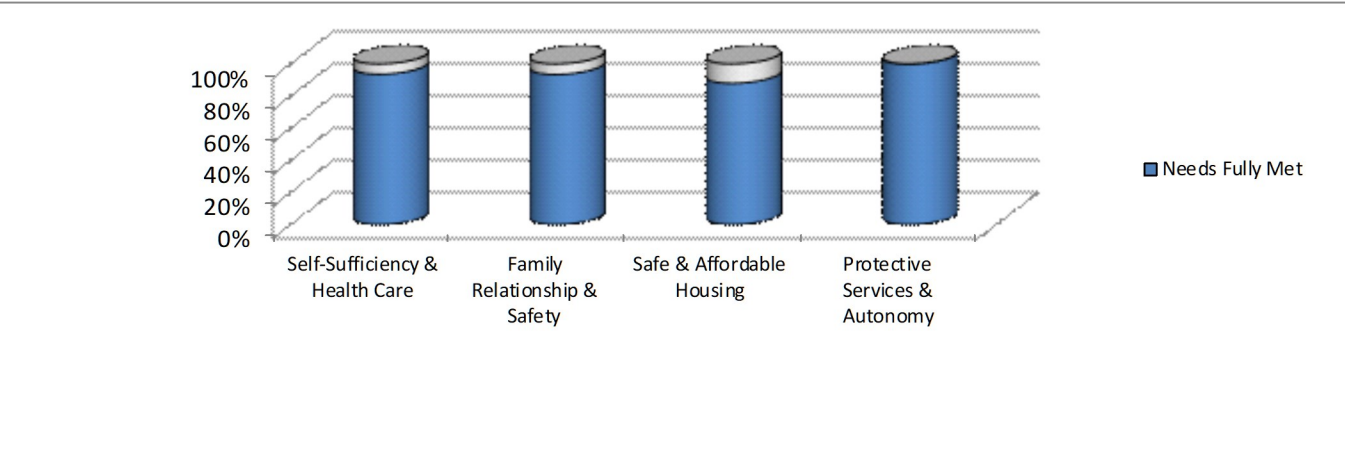
“LSNWJ’s good reputation in the community for helping those who are financially disadvantaged with their legal needs is due to the strong leadership of Diane Smith and the hard work of the attorneys, staff, and volunteers of LSNWJ,” said Board President Diane S. Margolin. The LSNWJ Board of Trustees acknowledged Diane Smith’s career by naming the Somerset County office of LSNWJ, the Diane K. Smith Justice Center.

Michael L. Wojcik was chosen as the Chief Executive Officer after a national search. While coming to LSNWJ from private practice, Mike had a long history with Legal Services - Essex-Newark Legal Services (1989-2006) and LSNWJ (2006-2013). A graduate of Columbia University and Boston University Law School, Mike has been committed to working with low-income people since his first tenancy case at the school’s law clinic with Boston Legal Aid. Mike expected challenges, but none of us could have foreseen the COVID pandemic. Mike, together with the staff and board, has forged a new method of service delivery that assures our client community that LSNWJ continues to make equal justice possible.

Legal Services of Northwest Jersey is a nonprofit law firm serving people living in poverty in Hunterdon, Morris, Somerset, Sussex and Warren counties. The work of LSNWJ is vital to the efforts of people living in poverty to maintain safe and affordable housing, gain sustainable income to escape the ravages of poverty, access quality health care, secure family stability and personal safety, and live with dignity in the community. In 2019, LSNWJ provided legal assistance in 5,410 cases affecting essential needs, including 705 cases opened in prior years for which work continued. LSNWJ's work in 2019 helped 7,831 people, including 2,614 children.



In 2019, 99% of clients provided with legal representation by LSNWJ pursued legal remedies and 93% were successful in meeting their essential needs.



PRO BONO NEWS

In the fall 2017, LSNWJ received a two-year Legal Services Corporation Pro Bono Innovation Fund grant for our **Achieving Justice through Pro Bono Innovation** project. We engaged the Board, staff, volunteers and other stakeholders, in conducting a thorough assessment of our pro bono program and made strategic decisions about our pro bono work that has expanded its capacity to provide high-quality legal services and equal justice to meet the most pressing needs of our client community. We implemented a mentoring model in our tenancy projects, held training on substantive law, skills, professional responsibility and cultural competency, created resource binders, and improved communication between LSNWJ and its volunteers. No one could have anticipated that the delivery of legal services and pro bono involvement would be so radically changed just a few months later. LSNWJ's Pro Bono Team met the challenge, maintaining our Pro Bono Strategic Goals, while revising the outcomes we will achieve in light of the pandemic.

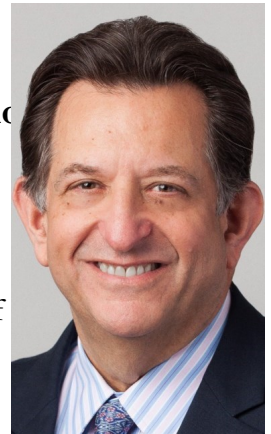


In Memoriam

Mark R. Daniel, Esq., was the driving force behind Merck's nationally recognized pro bono program from its establishment in 1994 to his retirement in 2016. Mark understood that while pro bono was free to the client, it required investment of funds as well as services to be effective- time and treasure as Mark would say. LSNWJ, together with Volunteer Lawyers for Justice, was proud to have nominated Mark in 2017 for the prestigious Lifetime Achievement Award of the New Jersey State Bar Association.

We thank all our volunteers and recognize the following for exceptional

Mark Wechsler, Esq., provided representation in family law to people in need. Once he took on a client, he continued to serve the client with whatever legal needs arose, much like an attorney on family retainer. Mark Wechsler's tireless volunteer efforts on behalf of LSNWJ clients were recognized with the Equal Justice Medal awarded by Legal Services of New Jersey.

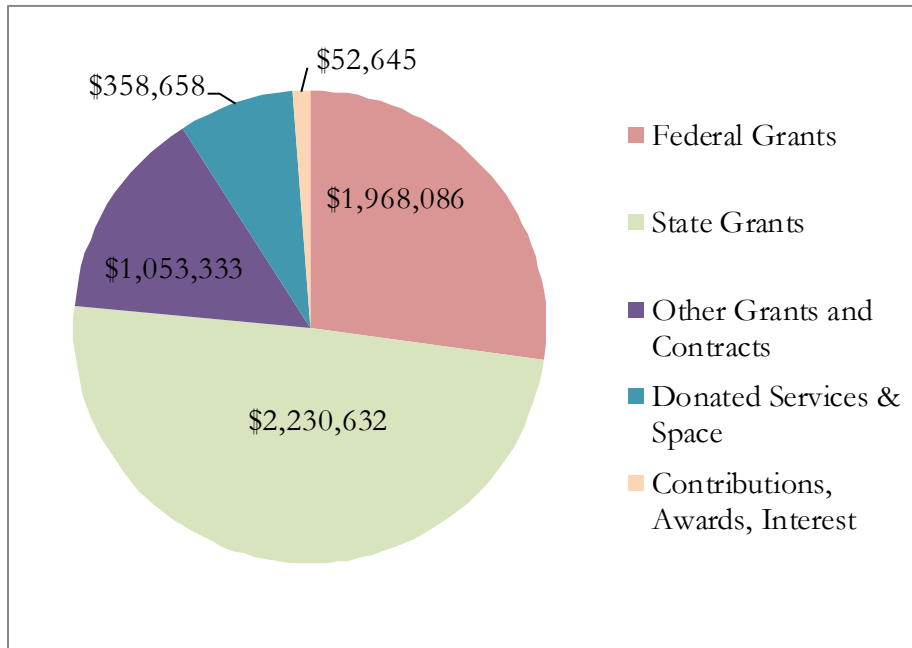


LSNWJ Pro Bono Strategic Goals

- LSNWJ provides robust support to our volunteers.
- LSNWJ achieves reasonably attainable legal outcomes in our pro bono work.
- LSNWJ's Pro Bono program supports LSNWJ's mission and strategic goals and is fully integrated into LSNWJ's structure.
- LSNWJ's Pro Bono program reflects best practices and innovation.

LSNWJ 2019 Revenue

\$4,526,516



LSNWJ is grateful to the foundations, organizations, and individuals who supported our work in 2019:

Platinum Supporter: (\$100,000+)

Merck Foundation

Gold Supporters (\$1,000-\$10,000)

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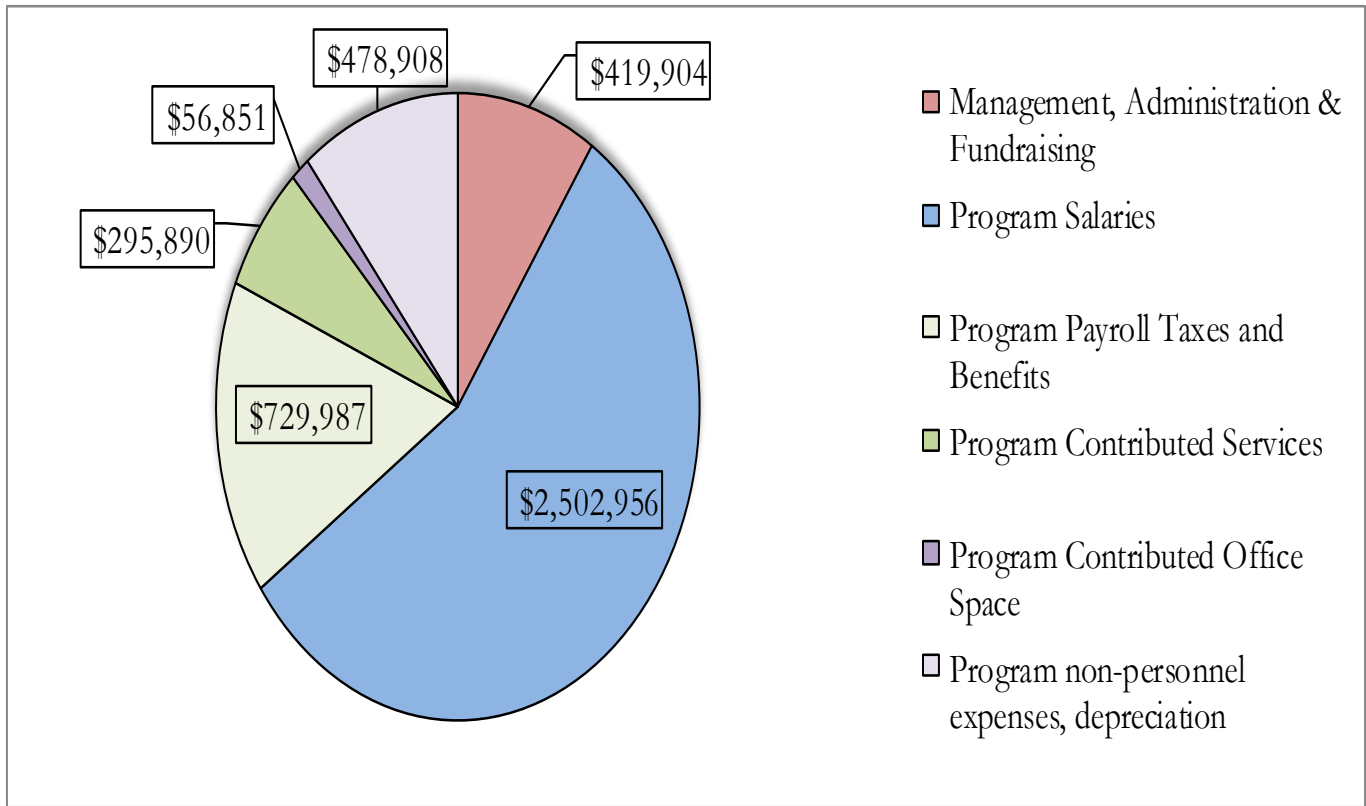
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For more than 40 years, in addition to providing financial support, the County of Morris has provided free office space in county facilities., which expands our capacity to meet the needs in our community.

LSNWJ 2019 Expenses

\$4,484,496



More than 90% of LSNWJ resources are used to support program work. Management, administration, and fundraising, although a small portion of the overall budget, are critical to maintaining focus on mission, assuring quality, meeting grant requirements, and securing new funding.

Contributed services expand our capacity to serve those in need. In 2019 volunteer attorneys provided free legal assistance in 287 cases, donating 1200 hours of their

LSNWJ BOARD OF TRUSTEES (2019)

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LEGAL SERVICES OF NORTHWEST JERSEY OFFICES

www.lsnj.org/lsnwj

www.lsnwj.org

lsnwj@lsnj.org

LSNWJ-Hunterdon

82 Park Avenue, Flemington, NJ 08822

Managing Attorney, Alisa Grossman

LSNWJ-Morris

30 Schuyler Place, Morristown, NJ

Managing Attorney, David M. Saltzman

LSNWJ-Somerset

Diane K. Smith Justice Center

90 East Main Street, Somerville, NJ

Managing Attorney, Andrea L. Strack

LSNWJ-Sussex

18 Church Street, Newton, NJ

Managing Attorney, Victoria Reiners

LSNWJ-Warren

Michael Weiner Justice Center

92 Front Street, Belvidere, NJ

Managing Attorney, Grace E. Kelly

